AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A backup system for backing up a hard disk of a computer which is connected to a server via a network, characterized in that said server comprises:

a boot OS creation section adapted to create a boot OS for ~~only~~ said computer;

a backup section adapted ~~to boot said computer with said boot OS and~~ to store as a file ~~a content~~ contents of the hard disk, inclusive of a system region, in said computer into a designated backup destination regardless of a type of an OS installed and a type of a file system, said designated backup destination selectively comprising any of a plurality of potential backup destinations;

a management information database adapted to store therein management information of said computer; and

a kernel image adapted to serve for the creation of said boot OS.

2. (Currently amended) The backup system as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein~~ said server further comprising a restore section ~~is~~ adapted to restore the content of said hard disk into the same hard disk or a new hard disk in said computer or into a hard disk of another computer by using the file which has been stored as a file by said backup section.

3. (Currently amended) A backup system for backing up a hard disk of a computer which is connected to a server via a network,

characterized in that said server comprises:

i) a boot OS creation section adapted to create a boot OS for said computer ~~only~~ and to store it into a boot media;

      ii) a management information database adapted to store therein management information of said computer; and

      iii) a kernel image adapted to serve for the creation of said boot OS,

and further characterized in that said boot media comprises:

      iv) a backup section adapted to store as a file a content, inclusive of a system region, of the hard disk in said computer into a designated backup destination regardless of a type of an OS installed and a type of a file system, said designated backup destination selectively comprising any of a plurality of potential backup destinations; and

      v) a restore section adapted to restore the content of said hard disk into the same hard disk or a new hard disk in said computer or into a hard disk of another computer by using the file which has been stored as a file by said backup section.

4. (Previously presented) The backup system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said boot OS creation section includes:

      a parameter creating portion adapted to allow said kernel image to serve as said boot OS; and

      a writing portion adapted to store said boot OS.

5. (Previously presented) The backup system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said backup section includes:

      an information managing portion adapted to manage information for backup;

      a reading portion adapted to read the content of the hard disk in said computer while compressing it; and

      a writing portion adapted to write said compressed content into said designated backup destination.

6. (Previously presented) The backup system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said restore

section includes:

    an information managing portion adapted to manage information for restore;

    a reading portion adapted to read a file of a restore origin while expanding it; and

    a writing portion adapted to write this expanded content into a hard disk as a restore

destination.

7. (Previously presented) The backup system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said backup

section includes a padding portion adapted to pad an unassigned region in the hard disk in

said computer with specific values.

8. (Previously presented) The backup system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said information

managing portion included in said backup section is adapted to store certification data, and

wherein said restore section includes a certifying portion adapted to perform certification

using said stored certification data by said information managing portion included in said

restore section.

9. (Currently amended) A method of backing up a hard disk connected to a computer,

characterized by comprising:

    creating a boot OS for booting ~~only~~ said computer by using an external storage device

or via a network, independently of an OS installed in said computer and a type of a file

system, as a backed-up object;

    booting said computer with said boot OS; and

    backing up the content, inclusive of a system region, of a hard disk connected to said

computer into a selected one of a server via said network, into a storage medium over said network, or into a storage medium directly connected to said computer.

10. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising restoring said content of the hard disk connected to said computer into a hard disk connected to another computer by using a file backing up the content of the hard disk in said computer.

11. (Currently amended) A ~~signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a~~ program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method of backing up a hard disk of a computer, said program including modules having functions comprising:

a creating function adapted to create a boot OS ~~only~~ for said computer;

a backup function adapted to ~~boot said computer with said boot OS and to~~ store as a file a content, inclusive of a system region, of a hard disk in said computer into a designated backup destination regardless of a type of an OS installed and a type of a file system, said designated backup destination selectively comprising any of a plurality of potential backup destinations; and

a restore function adapted to restore the content of said hard disk into the same hard disk or a new hard disk in said computer by using the file which has been stored as a file by said backup function.

12. (Currently amended) A backup service provision system for providing a backup of a hard disk of a computer connected to a server via the Internet, characterized in that said server comprises:

a boot OS creating section adapted to create a boot OS ~~only~~ for said computer;

a backup section adapted to boot said computer with said boot OS and to store as a file a content, inclusive of a system region, of the hard disk in said computer into a designated backup destination regardless of a type of OS installed and a type of a file system, said designated backup destination selectively comprising any of a plurality of potential backup destinations;

a management information database adapted to store management information for said computer; and

a kernel image adapted to serve for the creation of said boot OS, ~~and~~

wherein said backup service provision system is selectively configured to back up any computers connectable to said server.

13. (Currently amended) The backup service provision system as claimed in claim 12, wherein said server further comprises a restore section adapted to restore the content of said hard disk into the same hard disk or a new hard disk in said computer by using the file which has been stored as a file by said backup section.

14. (Previously presented) The backup system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said boot OS creation section includes:

a parameter creating portion adapted to allow said kernel image to serve as said boot OS; and

a writing portion adapted to store said boot OS.

15. (Previously presented) The backup system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said boot OS creation section includes:

a parameter creating portion adapted to allow said kernel image to serve as said boot

OS; and

a writing portion adapted to store said boot OS.

16. (Previously presented) The backup system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said backup section includes:

an information managing portion adapted to manage information for backup;

a reading portion adapted to read the content of the hard disk in said computer while compressing it; and

a writing portion adapted to write said compressed content into said designated backup destination.

17. (Previously presented) The backup system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said backup section includes:

an information managing portion adapted to manage information for backup;

a reading portion adapted to read the content of the hard disk in said computer while compressing it; and

a writing portion adapted to write said compressed content into said designated backup destination.

18. (Previously presented) The backup system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said restore section includes:

an information managing portion adapted to manage information for restore;

a reading portion adapted to read a file of a restore origin while expanding it; and

a writing portion adapted to write this expanded content into a hard disk as a restore destination.

19. (Previously presented) The backup system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said backup section includes a padding portion adapted to pad an unassigned region in the hard disk in said computer with specific values.

20. (Previously presented) The backup system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said information managing portion included in said backup section is adapted to store certification data, and wherein said restore section includes a certifying portion adapted to perform certification using said stored certification data by said information managing portion included in said restore section.

21. (New) The backup system of claim 1, wherein said plurality of potential backup destinations comprises:

    a magnetic tape device;

    a floppy disk (FD);

    a cassette diskette (CD); and

    said server.

22. (New) The backup system of claim 1, wherein a selection of said designated backup destination further comprises a selection of one of a network backup style and a local backup style.

23. (New) The backup system of claim 1, wherein a restoration of contents of said designated backup destination onto a computer further comprises designating said backup destination as a restore origin.